

Sub
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1 1'. A method comprising:
2 executing a first basic input/output system
3 module; and
4 dynamically linking to a second basic
5 input/output system module.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 storing said first module of a basic input/output
3 system for a processor-based system on a first storage
4 device prior to execution;
5 storing said second module of the basic
6 input/output system on a second storage device prior to
7 execution; and
8 enabling said second module to be executed
9 conditionally depending on a state of said processor-based
10 system.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein storing said second
2 module includes storing said second module in a storage
3 associated with a network server accessible to said
4 processor-based system over a network.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further including detecting
2 said system state during the boot sequence.

1 5. The method of claim 4 including detecting whether
2 or not the system is connected to a network during the boot
3 operation.

1 6. The method of claim 1 including dynamically
2 linking to one of a plurality of modules, and exporting an
3 offset to an entry point in one module to another module.

1 7. The method of claim 6 including storing a
2 secondary entry point in a module to locate a function
3 within the module.

1 8. The method of claim 7 including developing a
2 segment address for said second module at run time.

1 9. The method of claim 8 including providing a
2 descriptor table which indicates a segment address for said
3 second module.

1 10. An article comprising a medium for storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to:
3 execute a first basic input/output system module; and
4 dynamically link to a second basic input/output system
5 module.

1 11. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to:
3 access said first module of a basic input/output
4 system on a first storage device;
5 access said second module of the basic
6 input/output system on a second storage device; and
7 execute said second module conditionally
8 depending on the state of said processor-based system.

1 12. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to access
3 said second module in a storage associated with a network
4 server accessible to said processor-based system over a
5 network.

1 13. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to execute
3 said second module conditionally depending on whether or
4 not the processor-based system is coupled to a network.

1 14. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 selectively access either a first module setting forth a
4 first authentication protocol in a first storage device or
5 a second module setting forth a second authentication
6 protocol in a second storage device.

1 15. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 dynamically link said first and second modules.

1 16. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to detect
3 said system state during the boot sequence.

1 17. The article of claim 16 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to detect
3 whether the system is connected to a network during the
4 boot operation.

1 18. The article of claim 11 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to
3 dynamically link to one of a plurality of modules using
4 offsets to entry points in said modules.

1 19. The article of claim 18 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to store a
3 secondary entry point in a module to locate a function
4 within the module.

1 20. The article of claim 19 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to develop
3 a segment address for said second module at run time.

1 21. The article of claim 20 further storing
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to provide
3 a descriptor table which identifies the segment address for
4 said second module.

1 22. A processor-based system comprising:
2 a processor;
3 a first basic input/output system module
4 executable by said processor; and
a second basic input/output system module
executable by said processor, said second module being
dynamically linked to said first module.

1 23. The system of claim 22 including a detector that
2 detects a system state to determine whether said processor
3 executes said second module.

1 24. The system of claim 22 including a first storage
2 for said first module and a second storage for said second
3 module, said second storage being coupled to said
4 processor-based system over a network.

1 25. The system of claim 24 wherein said detector
2 detects information about network access.

1 26. The system of claim 25 wherein said first and
2 second modules include different authentication protocols.

1 27. The system of claim 26 wherein said processor
2 executes said basic input/output system module on said
3 second storage to implement a network authentication
4 protocol.

1 28. The system of claim 22 wherein said first module
2 dynamically links to said second module, using an offset
3 exported from said second module.

1 29. The system of claim 28 wherein said first module
2 uses a secondary entry point to locate a function in said
3 second module.

1 30. The system of claim 22 wherein said processor
2 provides a descriptor table which includes a segment
3 address for said second module.